AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Device [[(1)]] for palletizing objects, in particular empty plastic bottles [[(2)]] having a neck collar [[(1)]], comprising a transposing device [[(4)]] for forming layers [[(5)]] of the objects that are fed in rows, a pallet loader [[(7)]] transferring the layers to pallets [[(6)]], a conveyor zone [[(7, 8)]] situated between the transposing device [[(4)]] and the pallet loader for layers formed by the transposing device and a buffer [[(9)]] for intermediate storage of at least one layer, the transposing device [[(4)]] loads one of the conveyor zone [[(8)]] or the buffer [[(9)]] with objects [[(2)]] and the pallet loader [[(7)]] receives the layers of objects [[(2)]] from either the conveyor zone [[(8)]] or the buffer [[(9)]].

2. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein the buffer [[(9)]] is arranged at least partially beside the conveyor zone [[(8)]].

3. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein the buffer [[(9)]] is arranged at least partially beneath the conveyor zone [[(8)]].

4. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein the buffer [[(9)]] has a reversible carriage [[(10)]] for receiving at least one layer [[(5)]] of objects [[(2)]].

5. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein the buffer [[(9)]] has at least one endless conveyor chain for receiving at least one layer [[(5)]] of objects [[(2)]].

6. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein the buffer [[(9)]] has at least one container that can be handled separately for a layer [[(5)]] of objects [[(2)]].

7. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein the buffer [[(9)]] is provided with supports [[(11)]] for the objects [[(2)]].

8. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 7, wherein the supports [[(11)]] are adjustable for adaptation to different object diameters.

9. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 1, wherein the conveyor zone [[(8)]] has a sliding table [[(12)]] for a layer [[(5)]] of objects [[(2)]], the table being movable between the normal parking station of the transposing device [[(4)]] and the normal receiving station of the pallet loader [[(7)]].

10. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 9, wherein the buffer [[(9)]] is arranged beneath the sliding table [[(12)]] and passes by an additional parking station of the transposing device [[(4)]] as well as an additional receiving station of the pallet loader [[(7)]].

11. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 10, wherein the transposing device [[(4)]] and the pallet loader [[(7)]] one of execute an additional stroke during which they set down the objects on the buffer [[(9)]] or pick up the objects from the buffer [[(9)]].

12. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 1, and a distributor [[(13)]] connected upstream from the transposing device [[(4)]] continuously shapes several rows [[(26 through 31)]] of objects [[(2)]] from an incoming row of objects [[(2)]].

13. (Currently Amended) Device [[(1)]] for palletizing objects, especially empty plastic bottles [[(2)]] having a neck collar [[(3)]], comprising a transposing device [[(4)]] for forming layers [[(5)]] of the objects supplied in rows, a pallet loader [[(7)]] transferring the layers to pallets [[(6)]], a conveyor zone [[(8)]] arranged between the transposing device [[(4)]] and the pallet loader for the layers formed by the transposing device, and a distributor [[(13)]] which is provided upstream from the transposing device [[(4)]] continuously forms several outgoing rows [[(26 through 31)]] of objects [[(2)]] from an incoming row of objects [[(2)]].

14. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 13, wherein the distributor [[(13)]] has a continuously revolving conveyor chain [[(18)]] for a single-row feed of objects [[(2)]], a plurality of clamping star wheels [[(20 through 25)]] revolving in synchronization being connected one of directly or indirectly downstream from the conveyor chain, removing the objects [[(2)]] individually from the conveyor chain [[(18)]] and distributing them among multiple paths [[(26 through 31)]].

15. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 13, wherein the distributor [[(13')]] has multiple continuously revolving conveyor chains [[(18, 18')]] for a single row supply of objects [[(2)]], several clamping star wheels [[(40 through 47)]] being connected one of directly or indirectly downstream from each, individually removing the objects [[(2)]] from the conveyor chains [[(18, 18')]] and distributing them among multiple paths [[(L1 through L8)]].

16. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 15, wherein the conveyor chains [[(18, 18')]] form a tangent to the discharge star wheel [[(17)]] of a blow molding machine [[(S)]] and are loaded alternately with objects [[(2)]] by the controllable gripper arms [[(G)]] of the discharge star wheel.

17. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 14 , wherein each of the conveyor chains [[(18, 18')]] is equipped with individually controllable gripper tongs [[(19')]] for targeted gripping and release of one object [[(2)]] at a time.

18. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 14, wherein each of the conveyor chains [[(18, 18')]] has a curved path in the transfer area to the clamping star wheels [[(40 through 47)]].

19. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 14, and at least one clamping star wheel [[(48 through 51)]] that can be driven in synchronization is provided for one of at least one conveyor chain [[(18, 18')]] or at least one clamping star wheel [[(43, 47)]] for input of objects [[(2)]] from a storage device [[(59)]] into one of the conveyor chain [[(18, 18')]] or into the clamping star wheels.

20. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 15, and a transfer device [[(50, 52)]] for transferring objects [[(2)]] between one of the conveyor chains [[(18, 18')]] or the clamping star wheels assigned to them.